

# Zumwalt Says Joint Chiefs Have 'Deep Reservations'

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WASHINGTON, May 20 — Adm. Elmo R. Zumwalt Jr., the retired Chief of Naval Operations, said today that the Joint Chiefs of Staff had "deep reservations" that have not been made public about the new Soviet-American treaty limiting strategic arms.

"Members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff," Admiral Zumwalt said, "have to decide whether or not a decision made by a President, who tells them there are political factors beyond their purview that must be considered, should be supported or whether they should leave office. I gather that these members believe they should support, despite their deep reservations, SALT II." SALT is the acronym used to refer to the strategic arms limitation treaty.

Admiral Zumwalt made his comments in an interview on NBC's "Meet the Press," where he appeared along with Senator Jake Garn, Republican of Utah, and Paul H. Nitze, who is a former Deputy Secretary of Defense and former negotiator at the arms talks, and a member of the Committee on the Present Danger, a group that is critical of the strategic-arms treaties.

Last year, in an effort to gain the support of the Joint Chiefs for the arms agreement, President Carter agreed to

press for improved American air defense and a new medium-range bomber. A spokesman for the Defense Department said today that the Joint Chiefs would "reserve comment until the treaty is signed."

In a related development, Senator Edward M. Kennedy pledged his support today for the treaty, which is scheduled to go the Senate late next month after it is signed in Vienna by President Carter and Leonid I. Brezhnev, the Soviet leader. In a commencement address at Boston University, Mr. Kennedy, a Massachusetts Democrat, said that without the arms treaty each side would feel compelled to build new weapons, adding that the resulting arms race would be a "prescription for nuclear disaster."

Admiral Zumwalt, in the television interview, said he had been kept "very fully informed" on the positions held by members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. If papers describing these positions were made available to the Senate, he said, that body would be "shocked at how far their views have been watered down."

Senator Robert J. Dole, Republican of Kansas and a candidate for President, speaking on ABC's "Issues and Answers," said that he might vote for the treaty and propose or support some modifications, including one dealing with the question of verification.

Proposals to amend the treaty, which

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was signed after more than six years of negotiations, have been attacked by officials of both the Carter Administration and the Soviet Government. Last week Secretary of State Cyrus R. Vance warned that Senate amendments would doom the accord.

Senator Garn, a member of the Senate Intelligence Committee, responded that the Administration was using "fear tactics."

"We are being told by the Soviet Union and by our own Administration that this is the end of the world, that if we defeat it, we go back to some horrible conditions of the 1950's cold war," he said. "I don't accept that."

"SALT I allowed them to catch up," Senator Garn said of the first arms-limitation treaty in 1972. "SALT II will allow them to build as rapidly as their economy will be able to take it."